

long as the mother is carrying the infant: "there is symbiosis—a vital mutual service—between mother and infant" (p. 95).

In addition to the two main subjects, Dr. Saleeby discusses the "renewal of our years," "sleep and summer-time," commercial speculation, lunacy reform, the recent advances in chemo-therapeutics, the use of adrenalin, and a score of other topics. All these he touches with an imaginative and literary pen.

F. H. H.

Savage, W. G., B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H. *Food and the Public Health.* Cassell; price 5s.

THIS is an addition to the valuable "English Public Health Series," and maintains the level of its predecessors. Dr. Savage writes with first-hand knowledge of food problems, and has included some of his own, and Dr. Hope's, original researches and photographs showing the insanitary conditions under which our milk and other supplies are produced. Much of the recent work on vitamins, bacterial infection, etc., is here reproduced in an interesting and lucid form. Canned foods, the adulteration of foods, shell-fish, and alcoholic beverages are other subjects that are ably treated. To say that Dr. Savage has made his subject "interesting" to the common man is perhaps the best compliment we can pay his book.

F. H. H.

Robertson, JOHN, C.M.G., O.B.E., M.D., B.Sc. *Housing and the Public Health.* London: Cassell and Co.; 1919; price 5s.

THIS is a timely book. "Of all questions of the day," writes the author, "the one which is felt most keenly and which must be handled in the most drastic manner is that of making up the deficiency of houses in the first instance, and later in grappling with the question of dealing with slum properties" (p. 144). Dr. Robertson's long experience as Medical Officer of Health in Birmingham, his great services in that city and enthusiasm for the subject of housing, make him one of the first, if not the first authority on the subject in the country. He approaches it in the spirit of the reformer, with a well-grounded faith in the power of human nature to respond to the influence of improved environment. There is ample evidence in every town that better conditions produce better tenants, and that the people themselves approve and take advantage of improved conditions" (p. 10). "We may in this sense 'trust the people'" (p. 5). After a statement of the harm done by bad housing, and the bad environment which is its concomitant, and of the hope of improvement, estimated as "the saving in this county of 200,000 lives a year, with at least ten times this number of cases of illness" (p. 4), he goes on to set out the structural requirements of a healthy dwelling in a chapter which should be read by everyone who has anything to do with the housing of the working classes, whether as administrator, as social worker, or as tenant. To those who object to his minimum of three bedrooms, two sitting rooms, scullery and bathroom with hot and cold water, that it is above the means of the prospective occupiers, his answer is that "never again must the labourer be allowed to suit the house to his wage, but rather the house must be suited to the minimal requirements of human life, and we must see to it that the wage is so raised that these requirements may be fulfilled" (p. 8). Especially suggestive is all he says about light and ventilation. The last generation was concerned with gas and water, our own has added the problem of light and air.

The titles of the immediately succeeding chapters sufficiently indicate the scope of his treatment. The space is allotted to "The Dwelling" (in which he gives his whole-hearted support to the "cottage" as against the "tenement" system), "The Future Housing of the People," "General Block Plan of the House" (with much sound advice about drains), "The Accommodations of a Cottage," "Materials," "Communal Services," "Housing in London." The last is far too short considering the impor-